

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 SP-02 PRS-01

INR-07 /043 W

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O R 291651Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

SECSTATE WASHDC 1492

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 08108

FOR PRESIDENTIAL PARTY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, IT

SUBJECT: SECRETARY GENERAL DESIGNATE OF ITALIAN FOREIGN

MINISTRY: AMBASSADOR RAIMONDO MANZINI

1. EMBASSY ROME HAS INFORMED US THAT AMBASSADOR MANZINI, SECRETARY GENERAL DESIGNATE OF THE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, IS EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN CONVERSATIONS THE PRESIDENT WILL HAVE IN ROME NEXT WEEK. FOLLOWING APPRAISAL OF MANZINI IS SUBMITTED AS A SUPPLEMENT TO BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION BEING PROVIDED BY EMBASSY ROME.

2. AFTER 6 YEARS IN LONDON, MANZINI HAS ATTAINED HIS AMBITION TO BECOME THE TOP PROFESSIONAL IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. HIS MISSION IN LONDON CAN BE TERMED AS SUCCESSFUL. HE HAS OBVIOUSLY ENJOYED IT AND HAS A HIGH REGARD FOR THE BRITISH. ALTHOUGH HE HAS ASSIDUOUSLY CULTIVATED LEADERS IN ALL THREE POLITICAL PARTIES HE OBVIOUSLY FEELS CLOSER TO THE CONSERVATIVES THAN LABOR. HE TOOK SPECIAL PAINS TO DEVELOP A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH HEATH WHILE THE LATTER WAS LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION AND WAS ON GOOD TERMS WITH HIM AND OTHER SENIOR CONSERVATIVES WHEN THEY CAME INTO OFFICE. A NUMBER OF BRITISH OFFICIALS AND MINISTERS CONSIDER THAT HE WAS  
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GENERALLY HELPFUL IN DEVELOPING SMOOTH ANGLO-ITALIAN

RELATIONS.

3. THE MALTA CRISIS IN 1971 - 1972 GAVE MANZINI LOCAL NOTARIETY AND REVEALED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT HIS PERSONALITY AND METHODS OF OPERATION. HE PLAYED AN EXTREMELY ACTIVE PART IN THE CRISIS, ALTHOUGH PROBABLY NOT THE DECISIVE ROLE WHICH HE HIMSELF FELT IT TO BE. HE IS A HIGHLY SKILLED DIPLOMATIST, ARTICULATE AND FLUENT IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH. HE HAS A SUBTLE MIND AND A REALISTIC APPRECIATION OF PARISH POLITICS (HIS PHRASE) AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS. HIS METHOD OF OPERATING IS DISTINCTIVELY UNCONVENTIONAL. ENERGETIC, WITH A WELL DEVELOPED EGO, HE IS A FREE-WHEELER WHO BELIEVES THAT HE WAY TO GET THINGS DONE IS TO JUMP CHANNELS AND GO STRAIGHT TO THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE DECISIONS. HIGHLY AMBITIOUS, AN INTRIGUER PAR EXCELLENCE, HE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN BEHIND THE POWER CURVE IN BYZANTIUM. MANZINI, WHEN WORKING ON A MATTER OF GREAT IMPORTANCE AND SENSITIVITY, KEEPS HIS BUSINESS TO HIMSELF USING ONE TRUSTED SUBORDINATE TO SUPPLEMENT HIS EFFORTS. HIS METHOD OF OPERATION HAS CAUSED HEARTBURN AND FRUSTRATION IN THE ITALIAN EMBASSY.

4. A PROTEGE OF FANFANI AND ALLEGEDLY CLOSE TO MORO, MANZINI APPEARS TO STAND WELL WITH THE "BLACK" ESTABLISHMENT IN ROME. DURING THE MALTA CRISIS HE REPRESENTED TO US, ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, THAT HE HAD A PRIVATE CHANNEL TO HIS HOLINESS THE POPE PRESUMABLY THROUGH HIS COUSIN AND NAMESAKE, RAIMONDO MANZINI, WHO, IN 1972, WAS EDITOR OF EL "OSSERVATORE ROMANO, AND MONSIGNOR BENELLI.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 08108

5. A NUMBER OF OUR BRITISH CONTACTS DESCRIBE MANZINI AS DEVIOUS BUT THEY FEEL THAT HE DOES HAVE A FRIENDLY ATTITUDE TOWARD THE BRITISH, CONTRARY TO HIS SUCCESSOR DESIGNATE, DUCCL. MANZINI'S CONDUCT DURING THE MALTA CRISIS JUST BARELY AVOIDED BREAKING THE PATIENCE OF BRITISH MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS WHO CONSIDER THAT HIS FREE WHEELING WAS AN ATTEMPT TO BUILD UP HIS OWN PRESTIGE IN ROME. THOSE SAME OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, READILY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT MANZINI IS A HIGHLY PROFICIENT OPERATOR.

6. THIS EMBASSY HAS ENJOYED CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH MANZINI AND HIS EMBASSY BUT IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN CLEAR TO US THAT MANZINI SOUGHT SUCH A RELATIONSHIP TO FURTHER HIS OWN OBJECTIVES PARTICULARLY DURING THE MALTA CRISIS. NEVERTHELESS, MANZINI, WHO PROFESSES TO KNOW THE UNITED STATES WELL, HAS CONSISTENTLY SHOWN GOOD WILL TOWARD THE U.S. HE FULLY APPRECIATES U.S. POWER AND INFLUENCE. HE CLAIMS AMONG HIS FRIENDS A NUMBER OF DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN PUBLIC FIGURES, AMONG THEM AMBASSADOR ROBERT MURPHY.

7. IN POINT OF TALENT, SELF-CONFIDENCE AND CAPACITY FOR  
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RUTHLESSNESS, MANZINI WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PUT HIS STAMP ON  
THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

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**TAGS:** PGOV, OVIP, IT, US, (FORD, GERALD R), (MANZNI, RAIMONDU)  
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